

Remarks

Claims 1-9 are currently pending in the Application and Claims 2-3 and 5 are herein canceled without prejudice.

Summary of claim amendments

This response amends Claims 1 and 8-9 to recite features of Claims 2-3 and 5 and cancels Claims 2-3 and 5 without prejudice. Further support for the amendments can be found, for example, in Figure 3.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection

Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Iwamatsu (U.S. Patent No. 5,727,067). Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants submit that Iwamatsu does not teach each and every element as set forth in the rejected claims as amended. In particular:

Claim 1

Applicants submit that Iwamatsu does not disclose, suggest or teach, *inter alia*, the following features recited by amended Claim 1 of the present application:

“a frequency characteristics correction device for correcting frequency characteristics of an audio signal of the central channel, utilizing correction characteristics determined based on a head related transfer function to output a corrected signal; and a band-pass filter for extracting a predetermined frequency band from the corrected signal from the frequency characteristics correction device to output an extracted signal; a band eliminate filter for removing said predetermined frequency band from the corrected signal from the frequency characteristics correction device to output central channel audio signals; an output device for **mixing said extracted signal with an audio signal of the right channel and an audio signal of the left channel to generate mixed output audio signals**, and outputting said mixed output audio signals as a right channel output audio signal and a left channel output audio signal” (emphasis added)

If the Examiner does not agree that the above features are not disclosed by Iwamatsu, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.104(c)(2) by

designating “as nearly as practicable” where the above features are disclosed in Iwamatsu. Otherwise, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2 and 5

Claims 2 and 5 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 4 and 7

Claims 4 and 7, at least based on their dependency on Claim 1, are also patentable over Iwamatsu.

Claim 8

Applicants submit that Iwamatsu does not disclose, suggest or teach, *inter alia*, the following features recited by amended Claim 8 of the present application:

“a decoder for decoding input audio stream data to generate audio signals of a plurality of channels; and a circuit for processing audio signals in a plurality of channels comprising a right channel, a left channel and a central channel, said circuit comprising (i) a frequency characteristics correction device for correcting frequency characteristics of an audio signal of the central channel, utilizing correction characteristics determined based on a head related transfer function to output a corrected signal; (ii) a band-pass filter for extracting a predetermined frequency band from the corrected signal from the frequency characteristics correction device to output an extracted signal; (iii) a band eliminate filter for removing said predetermined frequency band from the corrected signal from the frequency characteristics correction device to output central channel audio signals; and (iv) an output device for **mixing said extracted signal with an audio signal of the right channel and an audio signal of the left channel to generate mixed output audio signals**, and outputting said mixed output audio signals as a right channel output audio signal and a left channel output audio signal” (emphasis added)

If the Examiner does not agree that the above features are not disclosed by Iwamatsu, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.104(c)(2) by designating “as nearly as practicable” where the above features are disclosed in Iwamatsu. Otherwise, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 9

Applicants submit that Iwamatsu does not disclose, suggest or teach, *inter alia*, the following features recited by amended Claim 9 of the present application:

“a frequency characteristics correction device for correcting frequency characteristics of an audio signal of the central channel, utilizing correction characteristics determined based on a head related transfer function to output a corrected signal; and a band-pass filter for extracting a predetermined frequency band from the corrected signal from the frequency characteristics correction device to output an extracted signal; a band eliminate filter for removing said predetermined frequency band from the corrected signal from the frequency characteristics correction device to output central channel audio signals; an output device for **mixing said extracted signal with an audio signal of the right channel and an audio signal of the left channel to generate mixed output audio signals**, and outputting said mixed output audio signals as a right channel output audio signal and a left channel output audio signal” (emphasis added)

If the Examiner does not agree that the above features are not disclosed by Iwamatsu, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.104(c)(2) by designating “as nearly as practicable” where the above features are disclosed in Iwamatsu. Otherwise, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Iwamatsu and further in view of Roshoj (U.S. Publ. No. 2003/0142830). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Iwamatsu and further in view of Scofield (U.S. Publ. No. 2002/0006206).

Claim 3

Claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice.

Claim 6

Applicant submits that Claim 6, at least based on its dependency on Claim 1, is believed to be patentable over Iwamatsu and Roshoj, because there is no prima facie 35 USC

103(a) case based on Iwamatsu, as shown above, and because the Examiner has not shown where Roshoj discloses, teaches or suggests the features not found in Iwamatsu.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this document is being transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office via electronic filing.

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